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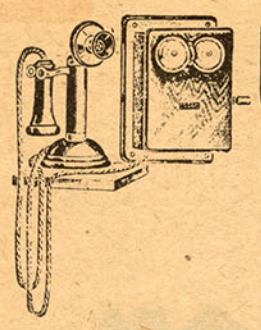
Ann Arbor Observer

Ann Arbor, Michigan SERVING CENTRAL ANN ARBOR **September, 1976**

The Courthouse at Huron and Main in the year 1900. In the foreground, an Ann Arbor-to-Detroit interurban. This remarkably detailed drawing is by Charles Ciccarelli, whose career as an illustrator of historical scenes is illuminated in the Business section, page 6.



Update

A Plan to Finance Downtown Parking Emerges

There are encouraging signs that the central Ann Arbor business community is finally uniting behind a plan to finance construction and repair of parking structures in the downtown area. The plan would call for 50% citywide, 50% downtown assessment, the first time a special assessment district would be set up to pay for parking structures. Main Street and State Street business groups indicate they will support such a plan. The plan is not likely, however, to meet the urgent need to repair the Maynard Street Carport. To complete repairs on this structure by the end of next summer, funding must be approved by City Council before December 1 to allow enough time to line up a construction firm which could begin by next spring. •

The Ethnic Fair Comes to Main Street

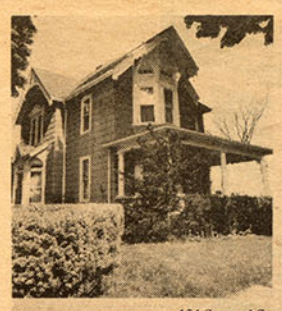
The fourth annual Ethnic Fair on Main Street will be held Friday and Saturday, September 3 and 4, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., despite complications arising from the new street use fee which jeopardized the festival.

The Fair features booths and tents with food, gifts, and cultural displays from many local ethnic groups: Ukranian, Native American, Polish, French, Scandanavian, Italian, Indian, Chinese, Irish, German, Korean, Jewish, Czech, Arab, Chicano, Russian, and Greek. Entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. at Main and Liberty; it also includes Afro-Americans, Hungarians, and Yugoslav groups.

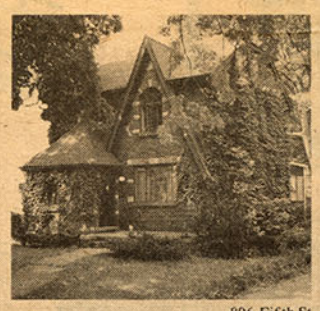
Ann Arbor's Multi-Ethnic Alliance and the Downtown Business Development Association sponsor the fair, which is non-profit. Any net gain is given to charities (usually scholarship funds, cultural or religious organizations) designed by participating ethnic organizations.

The 1½ cents-per-square-foot-per-day city street use fee and 60-day-in-advance permit was designed to discourage Art Fair poachers. But as the law is written, the fee must also be applied to street use such as the Ethnic Fair. The low-budget Ethnic Fair couldn't pay it, and City Council voted money from the city's general fund to cover the Fair's fee, on the grounds that the fair is a non-profit "community-oriented" event. The State Street Art Fair then demanded a refund of the street use fee it paid, claiming it was also community-oriented even though the artists make profits.

City Council hopes to draft a new street use ordinance for next year that distinguishes between profit-oriented and non-profit users of streets. •



454 Second St.



806 Fifth St.

1203 W. Huron

523 W. Liberty

309 Fourth St.

449 Fourth St.

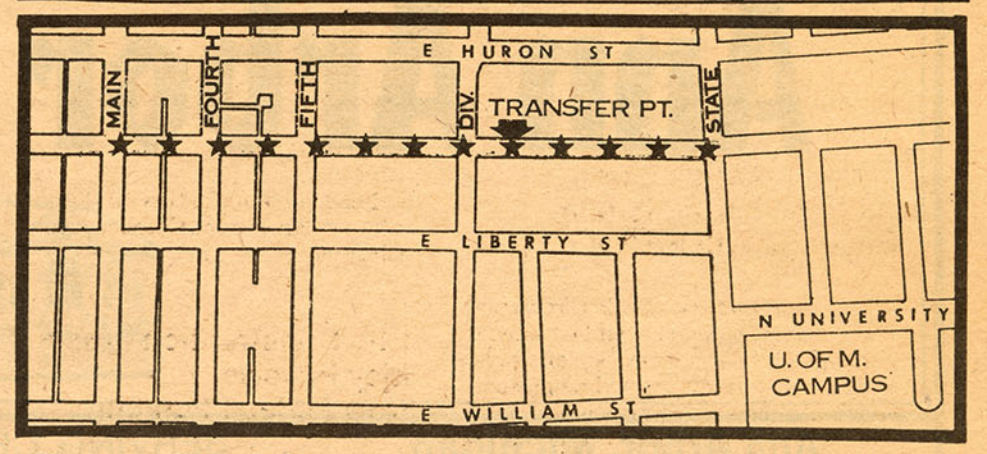
The Old West Side Homes Tour is Sunday, September 19

It's homes tour time again on the Old West Side. On Sunday, September 19, from noon to 5, six old homes will be opened to the public. They include:

- the picturesque yellow "icicle house" at 1203 W. Huron, renovated by owner Joyce Hannaum.
- artist Barry Avedon's imaginatively redecorated 1930's Tudor cottage at 806 Fifth St.
- the Walz-Hiscock house at 454 Second St., an ornate neighborhood landmark now owned by Carol Hollenshead and Bruce Wilson.
- J. D. and Leslie Eveland's home at 449 Fourth St., with rich oak panelling and a sunken garden.
- The converted two-family at 523 W. Liberty and Fourth St. being renovated by joint owner-occupants David and Karen Coe and Roy and Margaret McFarland-Benton.
- Geoffrey and Susan Leach's house at 309 Fourth St., with an antique-filled country kitchen.

Tickets for the tour (the Old West Side Association's fourth) may be purchased for $2.50 on tour day at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, 520 W. Jefferson at Fourth St. Refreshments and babysitting will be there, too. Advance tickets for $2.50 are available at Anderson's Paints, Applerose, Borders Book Shop, The Needlepointe Tree, Ruth Roy Interiors, The Treasure Mart, and Washtenaw Dairy. •

Catching a Bus Will Be Simpler



The stars indicate the location of the transit spine along Washington Street, along which all fixed-route buses will travel. Eventually the spine will be extended to reach the University Hospital.

Ann Arbor Gets a Spine

Beginning October 1, all Ann Arbor buses (except dial-a-ride vans) will follow the same route through central Ann Arbor. That common route, called the "spine" by Ann Arbor Transportation Authority planners, extends along Washington Street from Ashley to State. (In the spring of 1977, the spine will be extended via North University to University Hospital.)

Under the new arrangement, buses on the fixed routes (which extend radially from downtown) will enter central Ann Arbor and join the spine at one of its ends. They will follow the spine and leave the central area from the opposite end, using radial routes opposite the ones they came in on. For example, a bus coming into central Ann Arbor along Miller Avenue will join the spine at Ashley and Washington, proceed along the spine to State Street, and leave downtown along the Washtenaw route.

A common bus route in central Ann Arbor will be more convenient and easier for riders to understand. Every bus will stop near the most frequently chosen downtown destinations, minimizing the need for transfers or extended walks after a trip. Riders will be able to board anywhere along the spine route. Once the public becomes familiar with the spine, knowing where to catch a bus will be a simple matter.

Washington was chosen for the spine because most downtown destinations are within two blocks of that street, and because it heads directly into the campus area, another frequent destination. Since University Hospital is a popular stop for bus riders, it was decided to extend the spine beyond State to reach the Hospital.

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, which runs the bus system, is now requesting Federal funds to provide passenger facilities along the length of the spine. These will include lighting, shelters, street furniture, landscaping, and signs with easy-to-read route and time schedules. Approval of Federal funds to pay for these improvements seems probable.

The changeover to the spine concept of bus routing meant that a new transfer point had to be found somewhere along the spine. The present point at Fourth and William is too far from the spine to be efficient. The new transfer point is on East Washington, just east of Division (see map). This is where all central city transfers from one bus route to another will occur. To make transfers as convenient as possible, AATA is taking pains to arrange schedules so that buses converge there at approximately the same time (once every half hour in off-hours, once every 15 minutes at peak times—7:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:30 p.m.). Bus fare will continue to be 25 cents a ride. There is no cost for transfers. •

Ann Arbor Observer
SERVING CENTRAL ANN ARBOR

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502 East Huron
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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Coming next month: Albert Wheeler Remembers, Part Two.

Update/ Continued

The Circulation Plan: A Presentation, Public Hearings Will Be Held

The long-awaited 1990 Circulation Plan covering roads, public transit, parking, bicycle and pedestrian ways, and rail transportation, will be presented and discussed this month and next. Elements of special interest to downtown include widening Glen, Fuller, and Depot, rebuilding the Broadway Bridge, and either extending Packard from Main to Ashley or redesigning the Packard-Main intersection. The perennial issues of parking and public transportation are also addressed.

Several talks about the Circulation Plan are scheduled:

Sept. 14, 7:30, City Hall Council Chambers: a presentation of the plan by the planning staff to the Planning Commission. The meeting is open to the public.

Sept. 21, 7:30. A video taped description of the plan. Cable TV, Channel E.

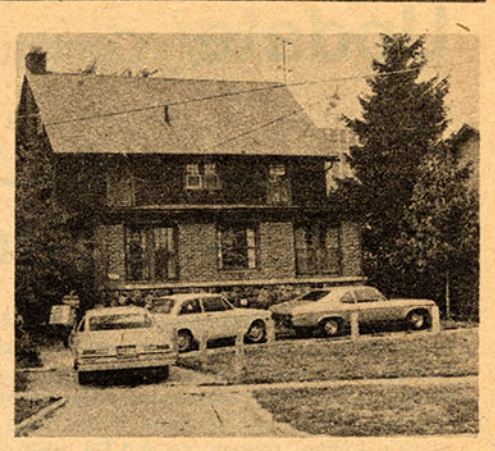
Sept. 28, 7:30. Same as above.

Oct. 5, 7:30, City Hall Council Chambers: Official City Planning Commission public hearing on the 1990 Circulation Plan.

For more information on this controversial plan, see the October Ann Arbor Observer. •

City Construction Projects May Receive New Federal Funding

When Congress overrode President Ford's veto of the $2 billion Public Works Employment Act of 1976 last July, it may have paved the way for the City to receive funds for much needed improvements such as repairing and building parking structures, repairing roads, erecting a new fire station, or developing new waste water systems. As City Administrator Sylvester Murray told City Council, the City has no idea whether it will receive a $200,000 or $20,000,000 slice of the pie. No specific Federal guidelines for applying for funds are available, but projects which can get underway quickly in high unemployment areas will be favored. Funding will occur within a few months. •



A Controversy Is Brewing Over Parking in Front Yards

Several nights this past spring the Ann Arbor Police swept through the residential sections of central Ann Arbor, issuing hundreds of tickets to cars parked on front yards. A city ordinance states that it is illegal to park in such places, but until this massive police campaign (brought on by an increasing number of citizen complaints), the ordinance was infrequently enforced. The result of this ticket-giving spree was an outcry from ticketed carowners, who complained to City Hall that they had been parking with impunity in their front yards for years.

Two of these irate citizens (both, not coincidentally, lawyers) decided to contest the city ordinance, charging (among other things) that the section covering off-street parking is unconstitutionally vague. City attorneys, after studying the ordinance, had to admit that the portions of the 15-year-old ordinance in question are not only vague, but in places incomprehensible. So they set about writing a new off-street parking ordinance, and the effect so far of this proposed new law has been to create a further storm of protest.

The proposed ordinance which the City Attorney's office came up with clarifies the legal terms involved (a big step forward, everyone agrees), and attempts to reconcile the property owners' growing demands for additional parking space with the aesthetic concerns of citizens who want to see front yards uncluttered with cars. Within certain guidelines the ordinance would allow a portion of front yards to be converted into properly landscaped parking spaces. To be legal, these spaces would have to be surfaced, curbed, and surrounded with shrubs. A maximum of four spaces would be allowed, and no more than 25% of the front open space (the area between the front of a house and the sidewalk) could be used for the combined driveway/parking area.

The City Attorney presented the proposed ordinance to City Council June 28, and Council referred it to the Planning Commission for their recommendation. Soon labeled as "the ordinance that lets you turn your front lawn into a parking lot," the proposed ordinance created widespread criticism. Although the City's Planning Department recommended approval of the proposed ordinance to the Planning Commission, Commission members have yet to decide on what recommendation to give Council.

There will be a public hearing before Council at City Hall at 7:30 p.m., September 13, to get citizen's reactions to the proposed ordinance and their feelings about the controversy. •

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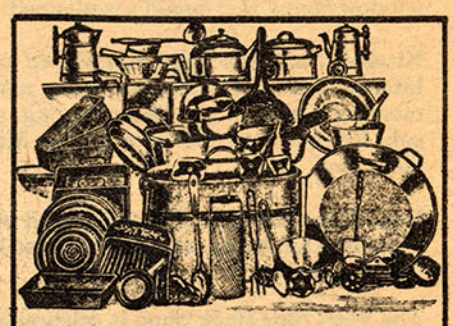

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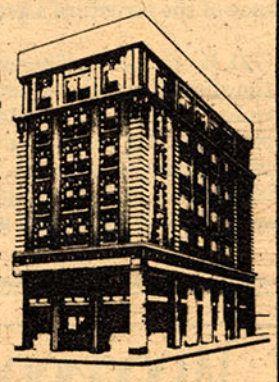

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Update/ Continued

Short News Items

The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority has reversed itself and is asking the state for $10,000 to make a feasibility study of a trolley line using the antique trolley purchased a year ago by a group of private citizens. If nothing else, the study will provide factual information on which a final decision about constructing such a line can be made, Mike Berla, AATA Board Chairman, told us. Only after a formal request to AATA from the City Council (which has refused to allocate funds for the project) did AATA agree to seek the state funds.

Construction of Michigan Square on E. Liberty between Division and Fifth is underway and should be completed by February, 1977. The four-level, 28,000 square-foot commercial and office building will house a restaurant and specialty shops, as well as offices. When engineering plans for the building were being finalized a few months ago, a newspaper report implied that the downtown area lacks sufficient water pressure to allow major new construction. This, developer Bill Martin tells us, is happily not the case: a 20-inch water pipe along Division, for example, has many times the capacity to handle Michigan Square's requirements, and this is the water source they will be using.

We need hardly tell you that the town is again filling up with University students, gearing up for the rigors of another school year. Registration is September 8 and 9; classes begin on the tenth. University officials say enrollment this year is expected to be just about what it was last year. In the fall of 1975, there were 36,335 students enrolled, 59.1% of whom were undergraduates, 40.1% of whom were in graduate or professional programs.

Eventually we will be using the metric system of measurement, they say. A good way to get a feel for one such metric measure—the Celsius system of measuring temperature—is to glance up occasionally at the Ann Arbor Federal Savings temperature indicator at Liberty and Division. Fahrenheit and Celsius temperatures are now displayed in succession.

The vacant Woolworth's building on Main Street may finally be getting a new tenant, according to realtor Morrie Dalitz. The 15,000 square foot space has been difficult to rent both because of the large area involved and the cumbersome process of negotiating with a large out-of-town organization like the Woolworth Co., which holds a long-term lease on the property. Now, however, there are two very interested parties, and it looks as if something may be worked out shortly. One party is the Ewing Furniture Co. of Brighton, a well-established firm which would like to turn the space into a specialty furniture store. Morrie added that he has noted an upsurge in interest in downtown property in the past year.

"Bathsheba" will be coming to Kerrytown II this fall. It's a new bath shop (what else?) featuring fixtures, tile, towels, wallpapers, and bath accessories. The business will be run by a board of directors; Kerrytown developer Art Carpenter is temporary trustee until the corporation is formed. Julie Frank McNeill will manage the shop.

Tech Hi-Fi, now located at 122 East Washington near Bimbo's, will be moving into the former Matrix Theater some time in September. The new location will enable the campus-oriented stereo-equipment store to take advantage of State Street area walk-in traffic, the manager of the Boston-based chain said. A rear display window facing McDonald's is planned.

Kitchen Port, the large Kerrytown cooking store, will install a demonstration kitchen this fall for demonstrating new products and for cooking. "On Saturday morning a stew might be simmering, and our coffee urn will certainly be there," said Kitchen Port manager Marge McNeill. A series of cooking classes may be developed, too.

Bass Shoes (makers of Weejuns and other men's and women's casual shoes) will open an Ann Arbor store at 529 East Liberty, where David's Books and Albert's Copying used to be.

The West Side Book Shop is celebrating its first anniversary with an open house on Sunday, September 26, from 1 to 5. Refreshments will be served.

The First and Washington Carport, built in 1948 and believed by local historians to be the nation's first municipally-financed parking garage, has been freshly painted by the Department of Streets, Traffic, and Parking—a major improvement to the West Side Neighborhood area because of the structure's great size.

Comings and Goings: The Corner Cupboard (721 E. Huron at Thayer) is a new sandwich shop that also sells Sicilian pizza by the slice. Down the street at 1135 E. Huron, just up from Glen, lines have been forming in front of the **Raja Rani,** a small restaurant which specializes in dishes from India and received a very favorable mention in the Detroit Free Press last month. **Singer Sewing** has vacated its sotre at 114 S. Main; fabrics had been discontinued there two years ago when the Briarwood store opened. **V.I.P. Discount Drugs** at 213 S. State has gone out of business.

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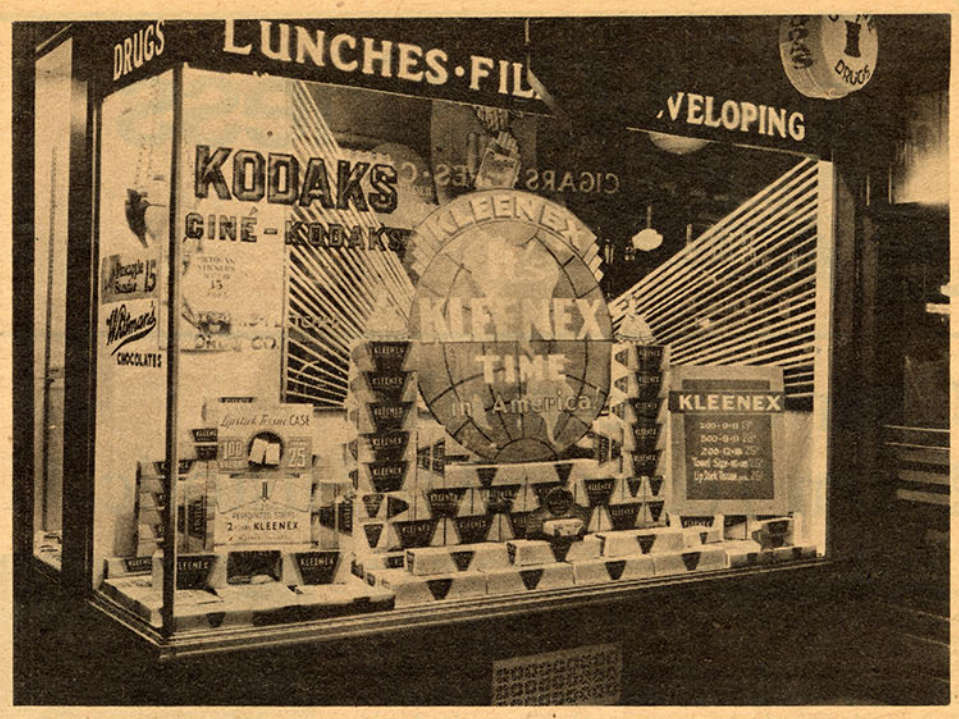
Feature

A Sampling Of the Mel Ivory Exhibit At Art Worlds



Kleenex was the star attraction at Calkins-Fletcher Drug, 324 S. State.

Mel Ivory with his Kodak D-2 camera.

The M Hut, 322 S. State, where Follett's is today, was the in place on campus in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

This Diag scene near State and North U. typifies the pictorial quality of Mel Ivory's work for the U-M alumni magazine.

Main and Huron, between 1928 and 1933. Some old landmarks from left to right: the steeple of the First Presbyterian Church, demolished in 1936 to make room for the Ann Arbor News building; the five-story Allenel Hotel, torn down for the Ann Arbor Inn; the row of small candy and cigar shops and lunch counters across from the courthouse [today that area is parking]; and the Farmers and Mechanics Bank [now Ann Arbor Bank]. The limestone bank facade was remodelled in 1970-71.

For over half a century the late Mel Ivory recorded much of the local scene, especially the campus area and university events, as a professional photographer. An exhibit of prints made from his negatives will be on display at Art Worlds, 213½ S. Main, from September 12 to October 8.

Ivory started out in photography as a boy, working for his uncle Percy Mack, who ran the photo department at Calkins-Fletcher Drug, 324 S. State, where Follett's is today. In college he photographed student events and shot some picturesque campus scenes for the alumni magazine.

Upon graduation he did studio photography and photoengraving for newspapers at his own shop at 1103 East University. Ivory Photo was (and still is) an Ann Arbor stringer for United Press International wire service. They send UPI photos for local stories. Later Ivory expanded his operations and moved to Ivory Photo's present location at 606 S. Main in 1947. Upon his death three and a half years ago, his daughter and son-in-law Susan and Bob Shipman took over the store.

The late 1920's and early 1930's were Ivory's most active years as an on-the-scene photographer. Because he used large-format cameras (from 3¼ x 4¼ inch, to 8 x 10 inch film size), the prints are quite sharp and detailed—a particular advantage for photographs of streetscapes, in which signs can be read from blocks away. The photographs themselves, of course, are much clearer than our newspaper reproductions.

The selection we have chosen represents a sampling of Ivory's typical work.

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Business

Charles Ciccarelli: From Technical to Historical Illustrator

Three years ago Charles Ciccarelli embarked on a new career, making exceptionally precise drawings from interesting and historically-rich old photographs of Ann Arbor. He sells limited-edition prints of these drawings from $18 to $21. So far he has completed three and is working on a fourth, depicting Cobblestone Farm, including the house and outbuildings. It should be completed by the end of this month. Here is his account of his venture:

While working as a technical illustrator and writer for Sycor, Inc., I decided on impulse, in 1973, to commence a series of drawings in "photo-realistic" detail that would satisfy a historic and nostalgic curiosity about Ann Arbor's past.

Using old photographs as source material, I give great attention to historical authenticity and to rendering in minute detail. The purpose of this effort is to provide the observer with the sense of "experiencing" the scene. One can either enjoy the drawing as a whole or examine its details under a magnifying glass.

The originals, which are done in India ink or 2-ply bristol paper, take several hundred hours to complete. For example, the Interurban and Courthouse scene took 303 hours, not counting historical research. The drawings are first done in complete detail with a mechanical pencil. Only then is the inking commenced, using a "000" rapidograph pen. The inking represents about 60% of the total time required. When the work is complete it goes to Craft Printers in Lansing, who make excellent lithographic reproductions on high-quality paper. The end result is an offering for sale of modestly-priced prints in a limited edition, available in a protective cardboard folder, with or without a mat, or as a completely framed picture. The original itself is also offered for sale, generally priced at several hundred dollars.

As a companion effort to the pictures, many hours are spent on their historical backgrounds by researching information primarily in old Ann Arbor newspapers dating as far back as 1829 and in old city directories dating back to 1860. The resulting notes are condensed into the one-page histories that accompany each print.

As a graduate of the University of Rochester, New York, with a B.A. in Fine Arts History, I came to Ann Arbor in 1957 and entered the University of Michigan School of Architecture. Shortly afterward, I developed a love for mathematics and transferred to that field, still at the U. of M. This left me wondering if I would ever again find a use for my previous field of study. But after leaving the U. of M. and establishing permanent residence in Ann Arbor, I again entered the world of art—this time in a more commercial setting. I worked for four years at Gustafson-Whitmer Advertising Design where I was taught India ink technique. This skill made my present historical drawings possible. In the years after Gustafson-Whitmer I spent most of my time as a technical illustrator, first at Bendix and then at Sycor. When my first drawing was completed and the prints were delivered in the fall of 1974, I made a daring move and left Sycor to go into business for myself, making Ann Arbor Historical Illustrations a full-time career. I have been pursuing this work ever since. •

Shopping: Things for Setting Up House

September, for a lot of people, means setting up an apartment. With that in mind, we've looked around for unusual items and special buys in central Ann Arbor stores.

Kitchenport carries some inexpensive yet distinctive dinnerware well suited to furnishing an apartment on a budget. Meakin ceramic dishes in classic studio white cost $6 for a five-piece place setting (dinner and salad plates, cup and saucer, and cereal-soup bowl). There is some good-looking cheap flatware, too. High-quality stainless "Gourmetware" comes with acrylic handles in white, brown, and yellow. It can be purchased by the piece for $1 a piece. Five pieces are available—dinner and salad forks, knife, teaspoon, and soup spoon. (*Kitchenport, in Kerrytown II, 215 N. Fifth Ave. by the Farmers' Market.*)

Feather dusters are just the thing, in our opinion, for quickly dusting tabletops and window sills and baseboards and little pieces of molding that catch the dust. Also for the edge of the bookshelf in front of the books, and for cobwebs in corners and on ceilings. Hertler's and Fischer Hardware have them, made of washable ostrich feathers, for about $5. (*Hertler's, 210 S. Ashley, and Fischer Hardware, 211 E. Washington.*)

Bright, boldly-designed Marimekko Textiles are popular for wall hangings, window shades, bedspreads, pillows, and tablecloths. The high-quality cotton fabric from Finland runs about $14 a yard, ranging from 48 to 63 inches wide. Some prints come in vinylized oilcloth, too. (*Orthoganality, 340 Maynard.*)

The group of plants known as Bromeliads, we're told, are now the rage of Europe. Bromeliads (including the pineapple and Spanish moss) are sturdy tropical plants native to the Americas from the Southeastern United States down through Argentina. Scales enable the leaves themselves to absorb water and nutrients. They make excellent houseplants. Saguaro Succulent Shop has a big assortment of them, $6-$20 each. (*Saguaro Succulent Shop, upstairs at 514 E. William.*)

Ann Arbor Bank's well-designed wall calendar covering September, 1976 through December, 1977, has plenty of space for writing down appointments. Photographs of local scenes illustrate the changing seasons. You can pick up a copy for the asking at any office of Ann Arbor Bank. Supplies are limited. •

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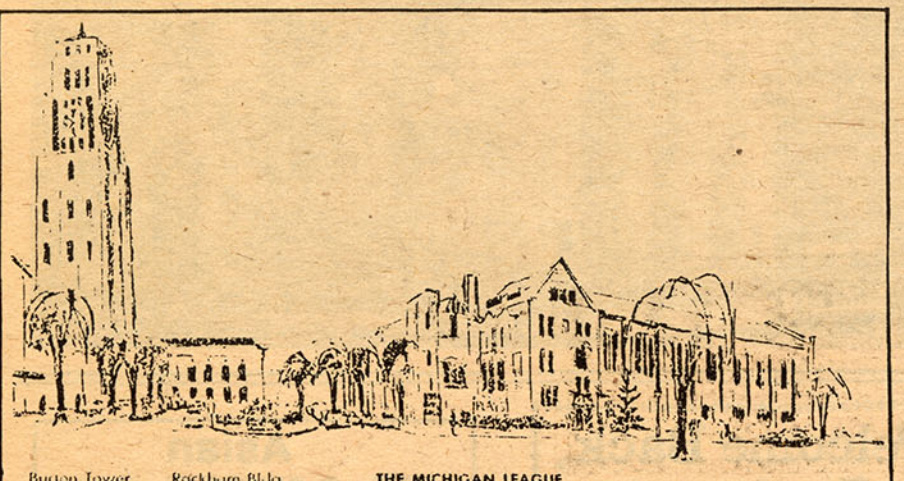

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by Julian Moody

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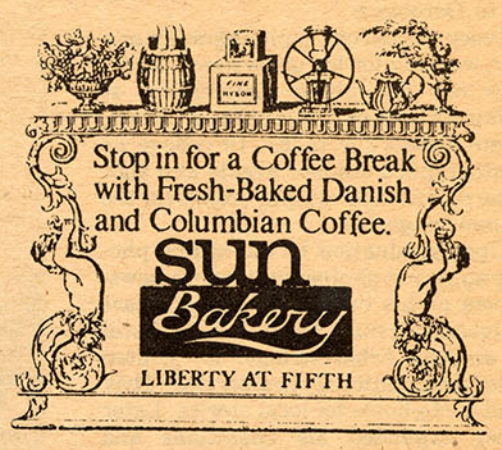
CARROT JUICE BY THE QUART is another tasty item we're going to be kicking out for you real soon. Watch the coolers for that goodie which we'll make fresh right here.

Tasty Tidbits is Julian's biweekly newsletter about health and nutrition featuring Applerose merchandise. Get it at APPLEROSE, 300 W. LIBERTY (open 9–6).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Business/ Continued

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Borders Book Shop Is Booming

If you have been in Ann Arbor very long, you are probably book-spoiled. Our city is blessed with numerous bookshops, probably more per capita than any other place in the country. The total selection available in Ann Arbor is superior to that offered in all but a few of the major metropolitan areas in the U.S.

In many ways the most impressive Ann Arbor bookstore is Borders Book Shop, 303 South State. People who get to New York come back and say there isn't anything better. With a current selection of over 55,000 different titles (80,000 books in all), it is now one of the best-stocked bookstores in the country.

Borders was founded just six years ago by brothers Louis and Tom Borders. Louis was here doing graduate work at the time, and Tom (who has a Masters in English from Michigan) had just returned from a two-year period of writing and travel in Europe. The type of bookstore they wanted to create was one which focuses not on best-seller sales (the most common type of bookstore), but rather on developing a strong "back stock," the trade term for books published over six months ago. Today, back stock accounts for 78% of sales at Borders.

The Borders brothers began modestly by leasing a small space on the second floor of a State Street building and ordering books. In seven months, business was good enough to allow them to expand into a larger first-floor location in the Maynard House. They moved two more times in the next four years, ending up in the former Wagner's Clothing Store, which gives them 8000 square feet of space, including an art gallery on the second floor. Borders now employs fourteen full-time staff members.

What are the reasons for Borders' dramatic rise in the world of bookselling? To find out, we talked at some length with Louis and Tom Borders.

A well-informed, competent staff is a prerequisite for a successful bookstore, says Tom Borders. From book-buyers to sales personnel, he feels that the staff presently at Borders is the best ever. In fact, he can't imagine a bookstore in this country with a better staff. "Without them," Tom says, "we wouldn't be anything near the bookstore we are today."

Everyone hired by Borders must pass a test of 38 questions which measures knowledge of books. (Sample questions: "Who wrote *Antigone?*" "In which section of the store would you look for books by or about Jean Piaget?" "List one book written by Doris Lessing.") Each staff member is given a wide range of responsibilities, from keeping sections of books in order to suggesting titles for particular subject areas.

A less visible reason for Borders' growth, but one that puts it in the technological vanguard of the bookselling business today, is the development of a sophisticated computerized inventory control system. Inventory control is not something those with fantasies of owning a bookshop are likely to give much thought to, but it is in fact the foundation of a good bookstore and it causes most of the work. This would not be the case if customers' interests in books were limited to only a couple of thousand different titles. But today's book-buying public has a vastly broader range of interests. Borders now stocks about 55,000 different titles, and each must be ordered from one of 500 publishers across the country. Consider added complications: the public's interest in different books often rises in irregular spurts, and hundreds of new titles go on the market every week. Then you can begin to appreciate how enormously difficult it is to keep on the shelves the 55,000 titles most likely to interest customers.

Week Ending 8/12/76

Wk-1	Wk-2	Wk-3	Wk-4	Title	Price
70	295	***	***	Ragtime	2.25
27	47	18	23	Small is Beautiful	2.45
22	88	84	54	Without Feathers	1.95
21	41	17	10	Our Bodies Ourselves 2nd ed	4.95
20	31	18	7	Rand MCNally Road Atlas	2.95
18	30	***	***	Eagle Has Landed	1.95
17	41	17	5	Vegetarian Epicure	4.95
17	64	55	4	Shogun	2.75
17	53	31	11	Zen/Motorcycle Maintenance	2.25
17	8	5	11	Even Cowgirls Get The Blues	4.95
16	55	1	***	Great Train Robbery	1.95
16	21	16	3	Doonesbury Chronicles	6.95
16	82	27	21	Looking For Mr. Goodbar	1.95

The thirteen most popular books at Borders for the week ending 8/12/76, based on a computer printout which lists the 200 top sellers of that week. The figures above show the number of books sold in each of the four past weeks [Wk-1 is the most recent], revealing sales trends for each book. Asterisks appear when the book is out of stock for that week.

Inventory control is Louis Borders' forte, and he has worked on it constantly for five years. The system he has developed now allows the store to keep continuous track of the 55,000 titles in its regular inventory, a feat practically impossible for a manual (non-computer) system. Louis says that "the computer has largely eliminated the most tedious and devastating job in existence: paperwork and inventory taking." The computer programs he has developed are designed not to take over book-ordering responsibilities, but rather to free the person ordering books of menial paperwork so that he can devote his time and efforts to selecting books.

Louis studied theoretical math at M.I.T., but decided he wanted a practical application for his abilities. He spent some time trying to develop a computer program that would predict the outcome of horse races, but that elusive goal was put on the back burner when he decided to team up with Tom to start a bookstore. In ordering books, he reports, there is an element of risk, just as in betting on horses.

Borders is able to keep an up-to-date inventory count by placing a tiny computer card in every book. When a sale is made, the card is removed and fed to the computer, which registers the sale and automatically reorders the book. (These computer-generated orders are checked by Borders personnel, and titles may be added or deleted before orders go to the publisher.) In this way, as often as once every two weeks, Borders can place an extensive order with an individual publisher, sometimes of several hundred titles. Many titles are ordered in quantities as low as one or two each.

These frequent book orders keep Borders very responsive to buying trends at the store. Buying small quantities of many different books, they do not need to devote space to storage of incoming stock. Typically, books received one day are on the shelves the next. Since implementing the system, Borders has been able to increase turnover to a figure much higher than the national average for bookstores.

Besides inventory control, the computer compiles information about past sales records at Borders. Information on each title includes quantity in stock, quantity ordered, and a sales profile for the past four weeks. Another help the computer gives in ordering books is in providing a sales profile of an author's previous books carried at Borders. For example, Kurt Vonnegut has a new novel coming out soon. In deciding how many copies to order, the buyer can obtain from the computer the weekly sales pattern at Borders of past Vonnegut novels.

Despite the amount of work they have put into their store, the Borders brothers don't seem to be competing directly with other bookstores in the area. Tom mentioned a recent survey indicating that fewer than 5% of the adults in the country visit a bookstore in a year. Although Ann Arbor obviously has a much higher percentage of bookstore fans, Tom believes that the book-selling field is underdeveloped. In his opinion, most of the sales Borders makes do not take away from potential sales of neighboring bookstores, but rather add to the overall number of books sold in the area.

While not especially competitive, neither are the brothers complacent. They are busy reorganizing the second floor art gallery to combine displays of prints and posters with books on visual arts and art techniques. Further expansion of the overall book selection is also planned. In three years they hope to have a total of 75,000 different titles on hand. When that time arrives, Ann Arbor will have one of the best-stocked bookstores in the world. •

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Leisure

In the World of Adult Simulation Games Fantasy and Monsters Are Catching On

The new sensation of the gaming world is an American innovation called Dungeons and Dragons. Only three years old, D & D (as its fans call it) is an open-ended fantasy game loosely based on Tolkien and other medieval fantasy sagas. The intriguing thing about it is that there's no set game—only a complex, three-volume set of rules (published by Tactical Studies Rules of Lake Geneva, Wisc.) applicable to a fantasy world of a designer's own making. Commercial D&D games are available (The Empire of the Petal Throne, priced at $25, is one). But the most avid enthusiasts strive to create a world of their own, a project requiring months to complete. They draw up complex worlds of land and sea, towns, forests, mountains, swamps, and monsters' lairs which make the trips around a Monopoly board seem like a routine treadmill.

Each D & D player chooses a character who must struggle to survive in the hostile land that the dungeonmaster-referee designs. Characters choose a direction on every move, travelling alone or in groups as they prefer, and begin an odyssey determined by throws of the dice. Playing once or twice a week, their adventures may easily last several months in actual time, or they may quickly be terminated —if fate wills it— by the lightning-bolt breath of a blue dragon or the mace of an evil troll.

One of our local dungeonmasters is John Finley, designer of Lycanthia, the place of the were creatures (werewolves, werebears, etc.). Lycanthia is explored every Wednesday and Thursday night in a third-floor room of the Michigan Union by members of The University of Michigan Simulation Players.

It took John ten months to people Lycanthia with an assortment of gnolls, trolls, gnomes, dwarves, chimerae, manticores, evil Magic-Users, dragons and wights, and then to locate the towns, swamps, lairs, dungeons, and so forth on a map the players are not permitted to see. "They only find out about the lairs when they stumble into them," John chuckled.

Gaming has grown from a hobby into a vocation for John since March, when he started working as the head of the gaming department at Rider's Hobby on W. Liberty. In his professional role, he is organizing the first University of Michigan Simcon (short for simulation convention), to be held at the Michigan League ballroom September 24 through 26. Such conventions provide an opportunity for isolated gaming enthusiasts to meet others of their ilk and find new playing partners.

"What got me into fantasy gaming was seeing it," John told us. Miniature cast-metal figures represent the game's cast of characters. Each player's personal character, carefully painted by discriminating owners, makes a colorful sight on the hexagonally-marked grid of the board they move on. When the character stumbles into a monster's lair with a dice roll of 3 to 6, depending on location, the monster itself appears on the scene, perhaps a gruesomely glorious giant crab measuring a full inch and a half across, or a giant lion-headed balrog with a body of red fire and huge wings to speed its attack.

The realism of the metal figures helps offset the complicated paraphenalia necessary to conjure up the characters and their adventures. Five kinds of dice (4, 6, 8, 12, and 20-sided ones) are rolled to produce numbers which refer to pages upon pages in the published tables that determine the circumstances a character encounters, from his inherent characteristics of strength, endurance, intelligence, wisdom, and personal charisma to the number, powers, aggressiveness and weapons of the adversaries he encounters.

Like life, fantasy gaming has no clear-cut goal. Survival is paramount. Gold may be acquired to facilitate survival through purchasing weapons and armor, and also to increase one's position and power. Experience, measured in experience points, furthers success, too.

A successful player will survive and move up the ranks of the character type he has chosen, be it elf, man, hobbit, or whatever, so he can hire other men, possibly build a castle, and become a lord. A successful Magic-User will earn the most potent spells, for instance, the Spell of Phantasmal Force or the Conjuration of Creatures.

Most D & D players choose characters with either a lawful or neutral orientation, who act with some consistency and in groups. Some individualists, however, are attracted to weirder types, for example the cyclops, rocs (100-foot long birds that devour creatures), and orcs (primitive creatures who live in rocks). They are the "chaotics." "Chaotics don't form military patterns. They just chop off heads any way they can," explained D & D fan Deana Caudill, one of John's customers at Rider's. She had just bought $27.35 worth of trolls, Amazons, fighting men, and giants. Her husband Greg likes the lawfuls such as stout fighters and benevolent clerics. Dana prefers the chaotics. "They just seem to suit me," she said sweetly as she was about to leave, and then told John, "Give me a call when you get your giant orcs." •

"Dungeons and Dragons" Has Many Ann Arbor Fans

Dungeonmaster John Finley holds up the figures of a mounted fighter and displays a commercial version of Dungeons and Dragons.

TO SEE ADULT GAMING IN ACTION OR TO PLAY, visit the simulation gaming convention SIMCON I, to be held in the ballroom of the Michigan League Friday through Sunday, September 24 through 26. There will be tournaments and dealer displays for such games as Dungeons and Dragons; Panzer Blitz; Ancient Contest; Naval, Civil War, and Napoleonic Miniatures; WIFF 'N PROOF; Diplomacy; and the old favorite, Monopoly.

Russell Stambaugh of the U-M Extension Gaming Service will demonstrate CLUG (Community Land Use Game), a simulation game that teaches players to solve real-life urban planning problems. Susan Ebel will demonstrate "Access," her simulation game on women's issues in which characters contend with social forces defining women's roles.

For playing sign-ups, or for information on times, call John Finley at Rider's, 668-8950. •

Leisure Notes

The Ann Arbor Art Association, 117 W. Liberty, will mount a Faculty Show from September 12 through 24, exhibiting mixed media works by the school's summer faculty. Gallery hours are daily from 10 to 4.

Art Association classes for fall start September 13. Call 994-8004 or stop by 117 w. Liberty for information.

Over 80 courses in the fine arts, dance, photography and physical arts will be offered this fall at Art Worlds Institute for Creative Arts, 213½ S. Main. Offerings include unusual subjects such as mime and Balinese, African, and Latin dance.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII, the award-winning BBC film series seen on PBS television, will be shown Thursdays at 1:30 and 7:30 September 16 through October 21 at the Ann Arbor Public Library basement meeting room. Each episode deals with one relationship in the bawdy English king's diverse marital career. A free illustrated film guide with historical background about the films will be given to audiences as part of this special project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts. •

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Local History

Mr. Wetherbee's Reminiscences, Part 3

Old Lower Town And Its Public Pumps

By HERBERT T. WETHERBEE

In this episode the late Herbert T. Wetherbee recounts anecdotes from the period between about 1895 and 1900, when the Wetherbee family lived in various houses in Lower Town on the north side of the Huron River.

Lower Town, remote from the bustling Main Street and campus areas, was then but a shabby remnant of Anson Brown's speculative hopes in the early 1830's. In 1900 it was really "the other side of the tracks," as the photo indicates. The neighborhood pumps on Broadway were centers of children's play—some of it not so innocent, we discover.

We carried all our water from the town pump located in the middle of the roadway in front of the Washtenaw Hotel. The pump had a railing around it with wooden pails on the ground for the horses to drink from. Many a time I had played on the railing until one day a kid, Ray Kent, threw a stone through George Spathelf's window. Spathelf called the police. They came over and Ray ran up the covered, outside stairway over the Harts' saloon. The chief of police called up the stairway for Ray to come down. Instead, Ray got a shotgun upstairs, met Charlie Masten, the chief, on the stairway and shot him in the stomach with the gun loaded with buck shot. Ray then went out a back window and slid down the drain pipe, ran through the burdocks and weeds over to the Gas Co. where the men hid him on top of the ovens until a freight train came along about midnight. Ray hopped this train, going west, and never came back. He went on to California where he stayed, did very well, married and raised a family.

That stopped all the horseplay around the pump.

There was another pump on the corner of Maiden Lane. All the people not fortunate enough to have a well, had to carry all their water from these two wells.

Lower Town business section consisted of William Lodholz, grocer (1000 Broadway), Henry Lodholz, also a grocer (1002 Broadway). Jim Boyle and Phil O'Hara also had a grocery store (1002 Broadway). In addition there was Donovan's variety store (1006 Broadway), Wright's saloon (1005 Broadway), a barber shop, Ed Kent's meat market, George Spathelf's meat market, Hart's saloon, and William Lansky, junk dealer (1034-1036 Broadway), with a small store in front. He later on became a wealthy junk dealer.

On one side of Broadway, next to the river, was the Argo Flour Mill. On the other side of the street was the Ann Arbor Harvesting Machine Co. I used to fish from the bridge over the river but as a kid I never caught anything big enough to keep. Used to coast down Broadway from Cedar Bend Drive to Wall St., turn down Wall St. to the river bridge, with 8 or 10 kids on the bobsled. •

Broadway near Wall, c. 1910-1920, some ten to twenty years after Mr. Wetherbee knew it as a boy, was much the same, dusty and rather decayed, but the pump in front of the white frame Washtenaw Hotel (left) was gone. The hotel, a stagecoach stop built in the 1830's, was torn down a century later. The Cloverleaf Lunch occupies the site today.

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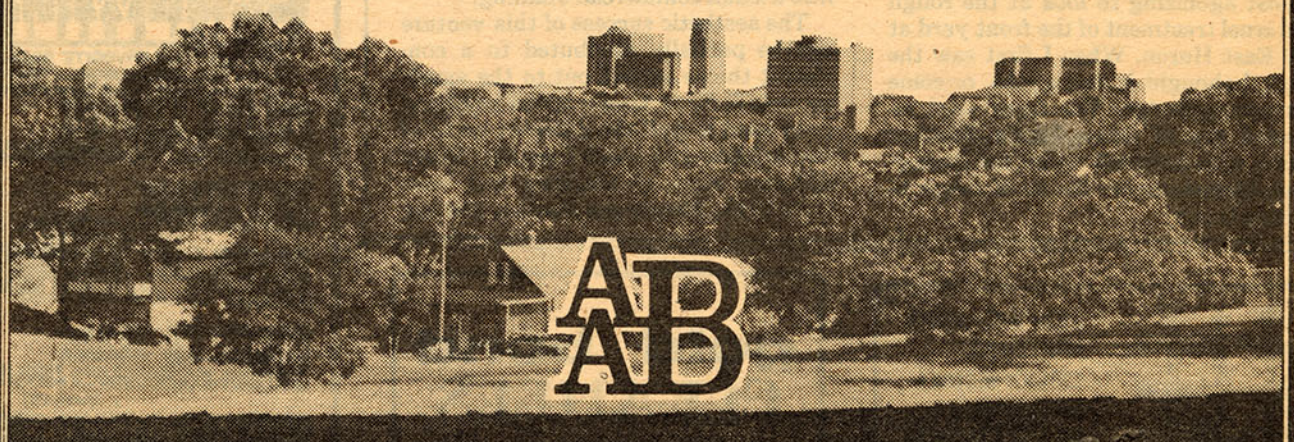

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Streetscape

A Winner and A Loser In Downtown Landscaping

By CLAIRE WILLIAMS

Claire Williams is a landscape architect with Preservation Urban Design Inc. She has a master's in landscape architecture from the University of Michigan and works primarily in urban environmental design.

Many property improvement projects have happened in Ann Arbor over the spring and summer. It is heartening to see them going on. Many of these projects are located within the downtown area. People are investing time and money in their property and the face of Ann Arbor is usually much better for the effort.

Unfortunately, not all "improvement" projects are successful at improving the visual environment. While some work is well handleld and contributes to the overall appearance of Ann Arbor, others are failures. Both kinds of projects can be found right along Huron Street, directly east of Main Street.

In the winner's column, the renovated gas station on the corner of East Huron and Fourth Avenue gets four stars for the sensitive and visually exciting readaptation of an old structure. The booby prize goes to the landscaping, or should I say, "rockscaping," done to the front yard of the house converted to an apartment building at 412 East Huron.

412 E. Huron.

Let's tackle the loser first. It is almost agonizing to look at the rough and cruel treatment of the front yard at 412 East Huron. When I first saw the work, I thought it was a joke, or some temporary design. The front yard reminded me of Disneyland's Frontier Town, with no insult meant for Disneyland. Unfortunately the work seems to be here to stay.

One of the most irritating things about this work is the lack of understanding of the surrounding environment. The architectual style and character of the building were not considered. The building was an older home, done in the Italianate style. Historically, the house would have been surrounded by grass and well-placed shrubs. Now it sits in a sea of stone, rocks, and mulch. A few dazed trees stick out of this unnatural setting.

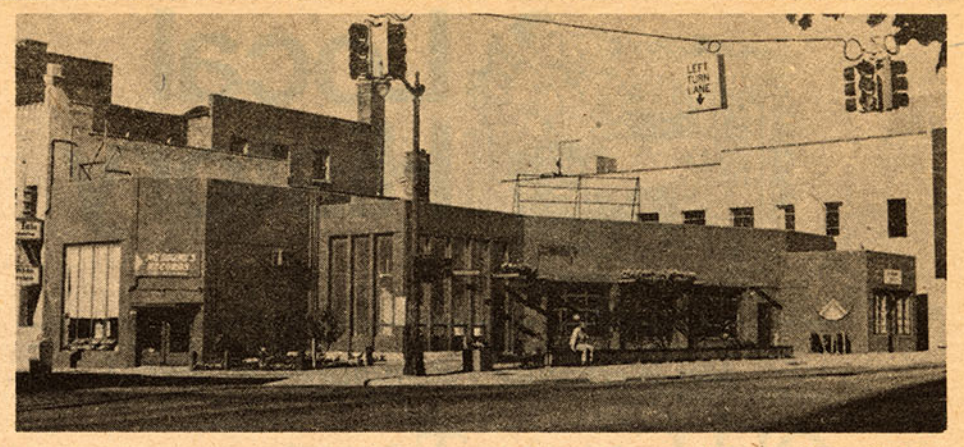
Apart from being affected by a moon rock craze, whoever laid down the mulch and stone undoubtedly used these materials to provide a "maintenance-free" yard. Surprise! The weeds are already growing through the mulch. Mother Nature still reigns supreme.

Unfortunately, I can't find anything positive to say about this "improvement." The layout of rock and mulch is poorly handled. It is spread around in a free form "designy" manner, hardly the way rocks appear in nature. The choice of plant materials reminds me of an eccentric museum collection. Too many different kinds of trees compete as the only natural features in the front yard. Most of the trees are planted too close together. In a few years, they will be crowding each other out.

The brutal, forced treatment of this yard hardly seems in keeping with other projects done around Ann Arbor. Our city has enough hard-surface area (streets, sidewalks, and parking lots) without the addition of a yard full of rocks. A little softness in our environment is desirable. If costs and maintenance were factors in the project, other ways of handling the area would have been less expensive and much more attractive. For ground cover, grass is very hardy with minimum maintenance. Areas of decorative ground cover would also have been appropriate. The owner of 412 East Huron might well consider gradually replacing this work with a more suitable, humane type of design.

On to a happier subject, the renovated gas station at Huron and Fourth Avenue. This improvement has really contributed to the visual environment of the downtown area. A vacant, cluttered gas station has been transformed into a small commercial building.

The aesthetic success of this venture can be partially attributed to a consistent theme carried out to the smallest detail. That theme is the brick-red color used to pull the different parts of the building and space together. Many different sizes of windows had been built in the former gas station. The use of one flat overall color lets these windows read through on a common field. Instead of potential confusion, a harmonious facade is established.



Huron at Fourth Ave.

The brick-red color is carried over into the landscaping. Red Cistena Plum trees, red barberry shrubs and planters full of pink flowers are the major features. The colors of these leaves and flowers cooperate with the building's brick-red color. This coordination gives a strong visual image to the corner. The corner is no longer an empty hole in the streetscape; rather it is an exciting, well-designed space.

Attention to small details is another factor in the building's success. An example is the reuse of the gas station pump base as a planter. The planter breaks up the asphalt paving. Plants running parallel to Huron Street provide a nice enclosure to the space. A subtle screen is developed from the street to the building. A wooden wall runs in front of the plants, giving an excellent edge to the property. This wall can also be used as a bench.

Care and thought were put into this project. The image of downtown was considered. Undoubtedly the brick-red color was used to relate this building to adjacent brick buildings. The effect is successful. The only suggestion I have is that better signage be provided to match the style of this new project. •

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SPICY POLISH SAUSAGE and a GENEROUS PORTION of SAUERKRAUT, UNDER A BLANKET of SWISS CHEESE.
PASTRAMI 1.75
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PASTRAMI REUBEN
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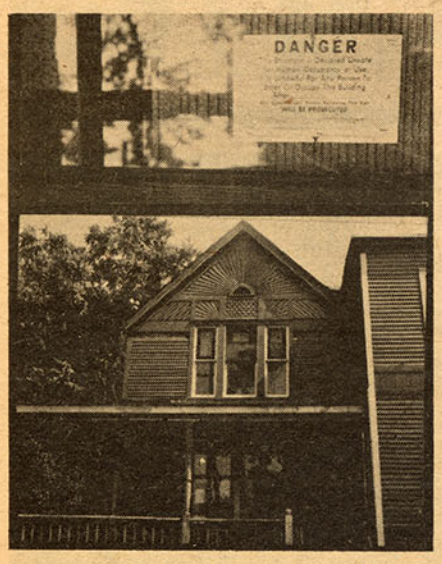
Streetscape/ Continued

Bill De Brooke Is Hooked on Old Houses



Bill DeBrooke's dream house at 516 Detroit Street. Asphalt siding had concealed the fancy Victorian sunbursts beneath the gable.

The complete work crew in front of 418 Detroit: Bill De Brooke, Sue Armbruster, and (on ladder) Rob DeBrooke.

A One-Man Renovation Blitz Hits Detroit Street

Lots of people have fantasies about rescuing old houses. But few have thrown themselves into their dreams to the extent that transplanted Texan Bill DeBrooke has.

At this time last year Bill was recovering from a painful disc operation when, as a mostly whimsical exercise, he and his friend Sue Armbruster looked over a condemned house at 516 Detroit Street. It was truly a "handyman's special," as the real estate people euphemistically say. Overgrown bushes only partly concealed the peeled paint and rotting porch. Sheets of plywood covered the windows and doors. In order to get in, they had to pry a piece of plywood off. Inside it was totally dark. But when the flashlight's beam revealed a richly-patterned wood ceiling and carved woodwork in the living room, Bill was hooked.

"I didn't see what was actually there," he says. "I saw what the house could be." He saw the house's potential more vividly than all its faults.

Why did Bill suddenly assume the responsibility of reviving this white elephant? Perhaps it was the euphoric feeling a person can have when he gets out of the hospital into the world again. Or maybe, Bill feels, the pain-killing drug he was taking after his operation contributed to his snap-decision. Sue's enthusiasm was certainly a large factor. At any rate, Bill soon became the proud owner of a condemned house, with rotting beams and flooring caused by a leaking roof. There was no functioning plumbing, electrical system, or heating. "The city inspector came out and asked, 'Why don't you tear this place down?' " Bill says.

But basically the house was structurally sound, though extremely decrepit. Aesthetically it was special. Nearly every room had walls covered with old-fashioned narrow vertical siding. The original doors, trim, and hardware were all intact. Furthermore, the house cost only $10,000. Today, with most of the materials already purchased (including hot-water, furnace, electrical, baseboard heating units, and new pipes) Bill figures he's put only $2500 cash into it. Labor is something else again. As the owner-occupant, he is permitted to do much of the work himself, and he is. He plans to return most of the house to its original appearance, and he's thinking about eventually adding solar heating units on the roof and a peaked Victorian tower to the boxy addition.

Once Bill started working on the house, he became interested in the street as a whole. He explained, "In this whole two-block area (Detroit Street from Fifth Avenue to Division and Beakes) there's not a structure which couldn't be nice. Except for the gas station at Detroit and Kingsley, there are no new intruding structures."

When the two houses at 418 and 420 Detroit, up the street next to Diroff's Market, were put up for sale, Bill again succumbed to impulse and bought them. He and his crew (Sue Armbruster and his son Rob) have been working between ten and twelve hours a day to get the houses cleaned and painted for fall rentals.

Neither shuffling dollars nor working long hours has scared Bill, who is an insurance salesman by profession. In his opinion, "You've got to do it without much money. That's part of the thrill."

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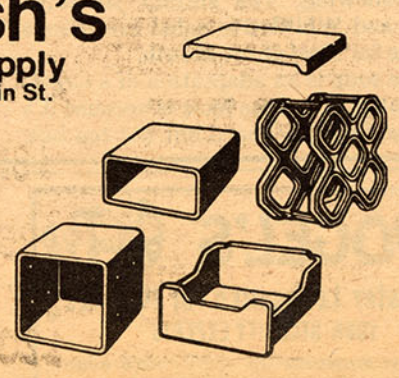

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The Drugstore Lunch Counter Is Alive and Well At the Michigan Pharmacy

The lunch counter at the corner drugstore may be a vanishing American institution, but that unhappy development only enhances the charm of the ones that remain.

The Michigan Pharmacy at Main and Madison has the last drug store lunch counter left in town, and it's a very popular place, indeed. Lured by the advertised 77 cent breakfast special (two eggs, toast, and coffee), we went down at 7:45 one morning just in time, as it happened, to witness the informal convening of early morning regulars, most of whom are independent subcontractors stopping by before going to work.

This crowd has made it a habit for twenty-five years to get together over coffee and doughnuts, discuss the major and minor events of the world, and exchange information about the building jobs they're working on. Sometimes such gossip can help them line up new jobs for their firms.

On a recent morning we encountered Ron Day, a mason; Harry Koch (known to friends as "Cookie"), who installs roofing, aluminum siding, and insulation; Dave Fish, who works for Harry; general contractors Ib Jensen and his son Peter (Ib, a Dane, was active in the Danish underground in World War Two); John Wood, a fireman; cement contractor Dick Walterhouse, who serves as County Commissioner (he was greeted by cries of "Here comes the great Walterhouse!"); Ernie Graf, who's well over 70 and still doing some roofing; and Wilfred Graf, who sells bricks across the street at Rhode's.

The topics discussed on this particular morning included: the case of two prominent secretaries in state government who received substantial ADC payments; pay raises for firemen, ending with the comment "I said I'd vote for a raise for the firemen as long as they can't moonlight. Because otherwise they're taking a job away from somebody else, that's why."); the comparative number of bricks laid per day by bricklayers now and in the old days; and each other ("I don't see how you make any profit," one tradesman told another. "You're always telling how much you lost on this job and that job. You must make a hell of a profit on some jobs." "That's true. On some jobs I do quite well.").

The 13-stool lunch counter is a neighborhood meeting place, a stage, of sorts, in a rambling play without much plot, and the contractors' crowd is the early morning act. The cast of characters changes throughout the day, with the boys from Fox Tent and Awning around 9, a big noon rush of people who work at Fingerle Lumber, A & L Parts, and the stores and offices down the street. Throughout the day students and young and old West Side families come in.

But the leading players are on stage constantly until the counter closes at 3:00 in the afternoon. Jo Vinsant cooks eggs and hotcakes, pours coffee with a smile, and loves her job. "There are a lot of nice people who come here," she says. "It's a lot of fun." She has prepared food in drugstores for 35 years, the last nine of them for Bob Gesche, the Michigan Pharmacy's affable owner-pharmacist, who bought the store almost six years ago when the Huron Valley National Bank built on the site of his old place at North University and Thayer.

Bob's role in the drama is to comment on the discussion. He's always moving around the store, stocking shelves of toiletries and suntan lotion, wheeling in cases of beer, ringing up sales of cigarettes and Kleenex, occasionally advising a customer suffering from a sore throat to ignore the claims of a patent medicine he carries, just go home, gargle with saltwater, and get plenty of rest. Without interrupting what he's doing, Bob tosses of remarks, mostly cynical, mostly about government (it's too big and inefficient) and contemporary society (people today are unwilling to commit themselves to anything on a permanent basis).

The stereotyped pharmacist's man-in-the-white-coat role is not for Bob; when it's hot, he usually wears a plain white T-shirt. He has worked in drugstores since he was thirteen, and, he says, "It's never gonna make anybody rich." With long hours and problems keeping reliable help, relatively small stores like his make for lots of hassles and little financial reward, according to Bob. "Plenty of people are *in* public-service jobs. Why do I have to *be* one?" he asks.

Despite it all, Bob admits he enjoys the store and his customers. He has a certain following in his role of cracker-barrel social critic in a formica-topped setting. As one Sunday-morning regular tells his wife, why should he go to church when he can go to the drugstore and hear Bob preach? •

Ernie Graf joking with Jo Vinsant.

Dave Fish, Dick Walterhouse, Wilfred Graf, **and** John Wood.

Bob Gesche, pharmacist.

It's a Regular Meeting Place for Many

Part of the early morning crowd: Peter and Ib Jensen, Harry Koch, Wilfred Graf, and John Wood.

Meal of the Month

Whiffletree Soup and Salad

Alice Kowalski samples the shrimp jambalya soup that Wayne Crawford has fixed.

Alice Kowalski has worked at Ann Arbor Bank for six years—first as a teller, now as a secretary. When she eats out for lunch, which she does nearly every day, she wants a meal that's healthy, not too rich, and not too expensive, either. Her favorite lunch is the soup and salad at the Whiffletree Restaurant.

The Whiffletree, 208 W. Huron, is best known for its seafood. But its soups and salads also have a substantial following. The shrimp jambalya soup and Whiffletree salad are Alice's choice for Meal of the Month.

The soup is an adaptation of a Creole specialty, and Alice likes it because it's interestingly seasoned but not too hot. Wayne Crawford cooks it in a huge 15-gallon soup pot. He uses an unusual combination of seasonings (curry, oregano, basil, Tabasco, and garlic powder) which flavor the basic Creole ingredients of shrimp, rice, celery, carrots, tomatoes, onions, and green peppers.

The $1.25 Whiffletree salad is almost a meal in itself. In addition to the usual ingredients (iceberg lettuce, tomato, bits of red cabbage, etc.) it includes some Greek olives, chick peas, diced beets, and bean sprouts. The Whiffletree dressing (spicy vinegar and oil) might best be specified on the side. Otherwise, the lower regions of your salad will be soggily soaking in a pool of dressing too generously ladled out. •

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